

## Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 L-02

OMB-01 /048 W

----- 120115

R 110929Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1236

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 3084

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, RP

SUBJECT: LABOR SECRETARY TO MOVE ON RESTRUCTURING

1.DURING COURSE MEETING WITH LABATT MARCH 11, LABOR SECRETARY BLAS OPLE COMMENTED AS FOLLOWS REGARDING RESTRUCTURING/UNIFICATION OF LABOR MOVEMENT. HE WAS DISAPPOINTED WITH SLOW PACE OF LABOR'S RESTRUCTURING EFFORTS AND INTENDED SO INFORM TOP TRADE UNION LEADERS AT GATHERING MARCH 12. APPEARED THAT EMPLOYERS' GROUPS WOULD BEAT LABOR TO GUN WITH RESPECT UNIFICATION: HE HAD MET WITH THEM LAST WEEK AND LEARNED THEY WERE PUTTING FINAL TOUCHES TO BYLAWS OF ALREADY-ANNOUNCED CONFEDERATION OF EMPLOYERS.

2. IT WAS OPLE'S HOPE THAT EMPLOYERS' UNIFICATION MOVE WOULD SPUR LABOR FINALLY TO AGREE UPON AND ANNOUNCE FORMATION ITS OWN UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY. WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT TIMING OF POSSIBLE UNIFICATION ANNOUNCEMENT BY LABOR, HE NOTED THAT NEW LABOR CODE IN EFFECT MADE RESTRUCTURING "MANDATORY" AND HE EXPECTED BOTH EMPLOYERS AND TRADE UNIONS TO HAVE THEIR CONFEDERATIONS ORGANIZED IN TIME FOR MAY 1 LABOR DAY FESTIVITIES. OPLE INTENDED CONVENE A TRISECTORAL LABOR/AMANAGEMENT CONVENTION IN CONNECTION WITH COMING LABOR DAY ACTIVITIES.

3.COMMENT: ALTHOUGH OPLE STILL WANTS AND EXPECTS LABOR  
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TO PUT ITS OWN HOUSE IN ORDER WITHOUT UNDUE GOVERNMENT

INTERFERENCE OR COACHING, HE MADE IT CLEAR HIS PATIENCE  
HAS LIMITS. HE WILL CONTINUE PUSH FOR RESTRUCTURING  
BEHIND SCENES.  
ON OTHER HAND, HE WANTS AND EXPECTS LABOR AT SOME POINT TO  
TAKE INITIATIVE TO GIVE SUBSTANCE AND LIFE TO ITS  
ORGANIZATION. LAST THING HE WANTS TO END UP WITH, HE HAS  
EMPHASIZED, IS PUPPET LABOR MOVEMENT IN PHILIPPINES A LA  
INDONESIA MODEL.  
SULLIVAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LABOR UNIONS, REORGANIZATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 MAR 1975  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MartinML  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Film Number:** D750084-0909  
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